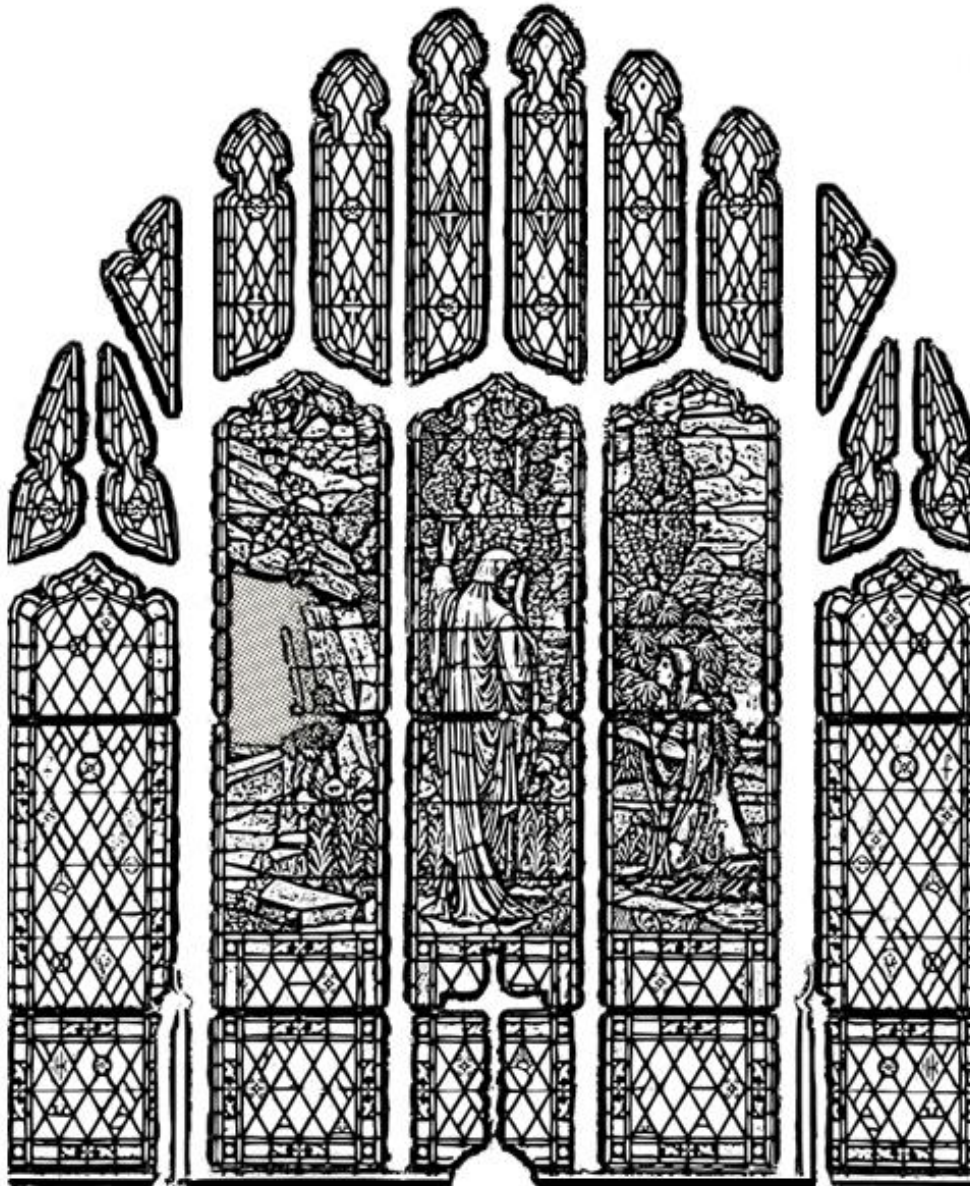


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, June 14, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

3319 WEST LIBERTY AVENUE ... PITTSBURGH, PA 15216 ... 412-531-7131

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ... tstrandburg@mlumc.org



Sunday, June 14, 2026 – The Third Sunday after Pentecost

Artificial Intelligence didn't exist when Jesus called his first followers, but there was plenty of anxiety about their jobs. Jesus equipped them to survive and even thrive. In every era, Jesus needs disciples who show empathy, presence, opinion, creativity and hope — job skills that will never be replaced by a computer.

**Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

The Prelude

Prelude-Improvisation on MODERNITY

All rise, in body or spirit, at the sound of the chimes.

*Opening Hymn

“Jesus, Lord, we look to thee” (*vv.1-4*)

UMH 562

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ God meets us in surprising yet ordinary places—under a tree, in the smile of a stranger, in a refreshing breeze that comes at just the right time.

℞ **God, open our hearts to notice your presence all around us.**

∇ God speaks to us in surprising yet ordinary ways—in a well-placed word from a friend, in a prayer that comes at just the right time, in a song that resonates through our entire being.

℞ **God, open our minds to recognize your voice all around us.**

∇ God fulfills God's promises in surprising yet ordinary ways—in an unexpected act of kindness, in providing just what we need at just the right time, in sending someone to listen when we feel alone.

℞ **God, open our hands to receive your blessings all around us.**

∇ Beloved, in the surprising and ordinary ways that God shows up among us, may we meet God and our neighbors with open hearts, minds, and hands, ready to encounter God's miraculous work.

℞ **God, open our lives to receive your blessings, that we may share together in the joy, wonder, and laughter of God's miraculous works all around us.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**God, as you met Abraham in an ordinary moment of hospitality,
meet us today in the ordinary moments of our lives.**

**Open our minds to recognize your presence among us;
open our hearts to receive your promises;
open our arms to embrace your miraculous works
with joy, wonder, and laughter.**

**As we gather to worship, help us find the courage to hope,
the wisdom to trust, and the perseverance to cooperate with you
as you fulfill our promises as you work for abundant life for all creation. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Jesus, Lord, we look to thee (v.5)”

UMH 562

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

The young disciples (school-age children) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise. Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service. Nursery is available for younger children; please see an usher for directions.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the Epistle to the Church in Rome

ROM. 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

“Freely, freely”

UMH 389

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

MT. 9:35-10:8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.”

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

The Sermon

“EPOCH Apostles”

Rev. Strandburg

***The Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 882

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***The Sign of Peace**

V. The peace of Christ be with you.

R. And also with you.

*The people are now invited to share signs of peace with their fellow members of Christ's body.
Extended conversation would ideally and most appropriately be reserved until the end of the service.*

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn

"By faith we stand in grace secure"

Tune: MODERNITY, AMV Stecker
Text: Google Gemini + AMVS
(Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8)



1. By faith we stand in grace se - cure, and
2. The Sa - vior sees the fain - ting throng, like
3. Yea, while we lan - guished, lost and lone, did
4. The har - vest waits u - pon the field, though



peace with God we know; through shi - fting times
sheep with - out a guide; he comes to heal
he for our sin die: such love Di - vine
la - bor - ers be few; in stead - fast faith,



our hope is sure, while anx - ious cur - rents flow. Though
the an - cient wrong, and calls them to his side. No
can ne - ver fail, nor ar - ti - fice out - vie; What
we shall not yield as he calls us a - new. Im -



cold ma - chines may chart the days, and hu - man minds de -
life - less mind or con - trived art could shed a pit - ying
free - ly we from Christ re - ceive, now free - ly let us
per - fect, anx - ious, frail, we go where hur - ting souls de -



-spair, God sets the li - ving heart a - blaze,
tear; but we can share his ten - der heart,
give: a li - ving hope for all who mourn,
-spair, re - flect - ing for hu - man - i - ty



with love that we must share.
and bring his pre - sence near.
that fain - ting souls may live.
the depth of Di - vine care.

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn**

"Tis the old ship of Zion"

UMH 345

***The Dismissal**

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. **Thanks be to God.**

***The Benediction & Recessional**

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

The Postlude

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Prayer Concerns

Fern Frank, enduring health challenges following a fall.

*The family and loved ones of **John Middleton**, whose life was remembered and whose earthly remains were committed to our columbarium this week.*

Clark Remington, recently hospitalized.

Gayle Radnich, who received a recent diagnosis of a health condition.

Chris Dooley, relative of Louanne Baily, and his family, as he undergoes treatment for cancer.

David Barber, son of Gloria Barber, suffering from cancer and recovering from a recent stroke.

Gary Henry, undergoing cancer treatment.

Norma Buhrman, enduring serious illness.

For those serving their country or community as first responders or in the armed forces, especially:

SPC **Russell Dale** - CPT **Shaun Hay** - LTC **Azizi Wesmiller** - LTC **Matthew Wesmiller**

2LT **Keith Cable** - LTC **Zachary Allen Finch** - CPL **Wyatt Hoover**

We pray for victims of violence in our nation and around the world.

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Botswana and Zimbabwe**. (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).*

Leaders in Worship this Morning

KATHY KARNS (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (10:45AM), LECTORS

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by
Donna & Alan Chesleigh
to the Glory of God and in loving memory of,
Willard Dambach and Alan Carl Chesleigh,
their fathers.

*To provide flowers for a future service of worship,
please call the church office at 412-531-7131,
or use the form linked through the QR code below.*

